

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **SB 1946 – HB 2138**

March 27, 2007

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Makes attendance in an alternative school mandatory for suspended or expelled students.

#### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$7,655,000**

**Increase Local Govt. Expenditures\* - \$4,122,000**

#### Assumptions:

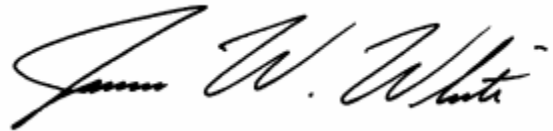
- Under current law, attendance in an alternative school is voluntary for suspended or expelled students unless the local board of education adopts a policy mandating attendance in either instance.
- LEAs are currently authorized to establish alternative schools in grades one through six and are required to establish at least one alternative school for students in grades 7-12 for those who have been suspended or expelled.
- Under the provisions of this bill LEAs would be required to serve students who were remanded but did not attend an alternative school.
- According to the Department of Education's 2006 Annual Statistical Report, there were 10,948 alternative school remands.
- According to a survey done by the Office of Education Accountability 59% of LEAs indicated they currently had a mandatory attendance policy in place and 41% did not.
- Forty-one percent of the 10,948 or 4,488 students remanded for the 2005-06 school year would now be attending an alternative school.
- Remanded students serve an average of 64 school days in an alternative school.
- The average per pupil expenditure statewide is \$7,469 or \$41 per day.
- \$41 average per pupil cost per day x 4,488 students remanded but did not attend x 64 days (average length of stay) = \$11,776,512 estimated increase in state and local government expenditures.
- This estimate assumes funding will be generated through the BEP funding formula for these students who will now be required to be placed into an alternative school and who previously were not counted in the ADM for funding purposes.

- State share = \$7,655,000
- Local share = \$4,122,000

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James W. White, Executive Director